

Press Release



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State Partners with IMBA to Build Trails

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPR) and the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cooperate in the development of new non-motorized, multi-use trails in North Dakota's state parks and recreation areas.

"The MOU really formalizes a long-term relationship we have developed with IMBA," said Doug Prchal, director of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. "We share similar goals and philosophies for providing multi-use trails for the public's enjoyment, using sustainable trail design and construction techniques."

During the past four years, IMBA trail experts have conducted trail building workshops in a number of state parks; held mountain bike riding workshops for the public; and have provided design and layout ideas for new trails constructed in state parks, as well as local parks across North Dakota.

"North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department has a solid commitment to develop trails throughout its park system," said Ron Luethe, North Dakota IMBA representative. "IMBA looks forward to developing multi-use, sustainable, single track trails with NDPR staff."

Last spring, the International Mountain Bicycling Association's Trail Solutions program co-sponsored a workshop on mechanized trail building techniques at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park south of Mandan. Participants, including representatives from state and federal natural resource agencies and private individuals, received hands-on training while constructing a single-track trail along the park's bluffs for use by hikers and horse riders.

The MOU was signed November 2 by Doug Prchal and Ron Luethe. IMBA has similar agreements with New Mexico, Virginia and a number of federal land management agencies.

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Play in our backyard!

Note to editor—300 DPI color or black and white photos of the MOU signing may be downloaded from the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department web site.

<http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/IMBA/mou-color.jpg> (362 KB)

<http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/IMBA/mou-bw.jpg>. (792 KB)

*Caption—*North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department Director Doug Prchal and IMBA State Representative Ron Luethe (seated, left to right) formally sign a cooperative agreement to collaborate in the development of sustainable, non-motorized trails in North Dakota's state parks and recreation areas. Standing are NDPRD staff members Marc Brown, park planner; Ft. Abraham Lincoln State Park Manager Dan Schelske; and Trails Coordinator Arik Spencer.